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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/468,447	12/21/1999	DARIN J. MORROW	BELL-0006//9	3651

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EXAMINER

BARQADLE, YASIN M

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2153

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/468,447

Applicant(s)

MORROW ET AL

Examiner

Yasin M Barqadle

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-14 and 16-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-14 and 16-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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Response to Amendment

1. The Amendment filed 12/12/03 has been entered and made of record.

2. Applicant's arguments filed 12/12/03 has been have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

- Claims 3 and 15 have been canceled.
- Claims 1,2,4-14 and 16-24 are presented for examination.

In response to applicant argument on page 11, last paragraph that ``Knox system searches the database based on the client and then notifies same ...Put, another way, embodiments of the present invention start with the status information and work to the customer, while the Knox system in contrast starts with the client and works towards the status information''. Examiner disagrees and would to direct applicant's attention to page 1, paragraphs 0017 where Knox states ``the invention is a system for providing status information to a client based on data residing in an electronic database. The database of the information is maintained and updated, and is periodically analyzed by the inventive system to determine whether at least a portion of the data has changed since the last analysis. If so, the client is automatically informed by the system which initiates an automatic voice response call out to the client. Knox also teaches an

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automatic notification mode as the status of a project is changed (page 2, paragraph 0025).

In response to applicant's argument on page 12, paragraph 1, that `` Knox system does not have an internal mail device that receives status information and that ascertains from the received status information an interested part''. Examiner disagrees, Knox teaches an electronic database updated by an e-file. The database of the information is maintained and updated (paragraphs 0013 and 0018-0019). Knox's invention includes an automatic voice response (AVR) call out to the client system in addition to communicating with the client via email, pager and telephone (paragraph 0013 and 0021). Since Knox teaches notifying clients automatically by email or by telephone (paragraphs 0025 and 00260) when project status is changed, he must locate client telephone numbers or email addresses prior to establishing any communication.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

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3. Claims 1,2,4-14 and 16-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knox Pub. No. 20030103605.

As per claim 1, Knox teaches a status reporting system (SRS) for automatically reporting updated status of a project to an interested party based on status information stored in a status system, the SRS being communicatively coupled to the status system and comprising (abstract):

a monitoring device (call out manager 16 and change records 14, fig. 1, paragraphs 0017-0020) contacting the status system to determine whether such status system has new status information stored therein and obtaining such new status information from the status system [database status changes are reported to clients automatically or upon client's request page 1, ¶ 0017. See also ¶ 0019]; and

an internal mail device receiving the obtained status information (status information residing in an electronic database is updated by an e-file and clients are notified automatically ¶ 0013 and ¶ 0027-0028), ascertaining from the received status information the interested party (system identifies clients who may have requested status information communication ¶ 0023-0026), locating an electronic mail address for the interested party (communicating via e-mail, one must inherently locate the e-mail address of the client page 1, ¶ 0008), formatting the received status information into a piece of electronic mail which includes the received status

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information and the located electronic mail address, and forwarding the piece of electronic mail to the interested party by way of an electronic mail service [page 2, ¶ 0019-0026].

the SRS of further comprising database (change record 14, fig. 1, contains fields where data is stored page 2, ¶ 0019), wherein the status system tags the status information stored therein with an ID identifying the interested party, wherein the database includes a record having the ID and the electronic mail address for the interested party, and wherein the internal mail device locates the electronic mail address for the interested party from the database based on the ID tagged to the received status information [page 2, ¶ 0019-0026].

Although Knox shows substantial features of the claimed invention including company database (fig. 1, 10) containing information relevant to task being performed by service provides and a change records database (fig. 1, 14) containing a list of clients and the current status to be reported to the client, he is silent regarding an ID database.

Nonetheless, this feature is well known in the art and would have been an obvious modification of the system disclosed by Knox. Giving the teaching of Knox where a tax return status is automatically reported to interested clients, a person of ordinary skill in the art would have readily recognized the desirability and the advantage of modifying Knox by employing an ID database such as using clients' social security numbers as an ID so that each client is uniquely identified.

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As per claim 2, Knox teaches The SRS of claim 1 wherein the electronic mail service is selected from a group consisting of an Internet E-Mail mail service, an Internet voice mail service, and a telephone-based voice mail service, and wherein the internal mail device formats the received status information into a piece of electronic mail compatible with the selected electronic mail service [page 2, ¶ 0021-0026].

As per claim 4, Knox teaches the SRS of claim 1 wherein the ID database includes a record having the ID and electronic mail addresses for a plurality of interested parties, and wherein the internal mail device locates the electronic mail addresses for the plurality of interested parties from the ID database based on the ID tagged to the received status information, formats the received status information into a piece of electronic mail which includes the received status information and the located electronic mail addresses, and forwards the piece of electronic mail to the plurality of interested parties by way of the electronic mail service [page 2, ¶ 0019-0026].

As per claim 5, Knox teaches the SRS of claim 1 further comprising a status database including status data, the monitoring device referring to the status data in the status database in conjunction with determining whether the status system has new status information stored therein [page 2, ¶ 0019-0025].

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As per claim 6, Knox teaches the SRS of claim 5 wherein the status data in the status database includes previous status information obtained from the status system for the project, and wherein the monitoring device compares the status information for the project as stored in the status database and the status information for the project as stored in the status system and notes differences that identify the new status information [page 2, ¶ 00219-0025].

As per claim 7, Knox teaches the SRS of claim 6 wherein the status database is updated with the new status information [page 2, ¶ 0019-0023].

As per claim 8, Knox teaches the SRS of claim 5 wherein each piece of status information stored in the status system is tagged with a time stamp, wherein the status data in the status database includes a time indicative of a last contact review of the status system by the monitoring device, and wherein the monitoring device obtains from the status system only those pieces of status information stored therein that have a time stamp later than the time of the last review as stored in the status database [page 2, ¶ 0017-0020 and ¶ 0025-0028].

As per claim 9, Knox teaches the SRS of claim 8 wherein the status database is updated with time indicative of the present review [page 2, ¶ 0017-0020 and ¶ 0025-0028].

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As per claim 10, Knox teaches the SRS of claim 1 wherein the monitoring device contacts the status system and obtains the new status information therefrom automatically on a periodic basis [page 2, ¶ 0017-0023].

As per claim 11, Knox teaches the SRS of claim 1 for automatically reporting updated status of a plurality of projects to corresponding interested party based on status information stored in the status system, wherein the internal mail device receives obtained pieces of status information, ascertains from each received piece of status information the corresponding interested party, locates an electronic mail address for the corresponding interested party, formats the received piece of status information into a piece of electronic mail which includes the received piece of status information and the located corresponding electronic mail address, and forwards the piece of electronic mail to the corresponding interested party by way of the electronic mail service [page 2, ¶ 0017-0028].

As per claim 12, Knox teaches the SRS of claim 1 further comprising a memory storing the obtained new status information [page 2, ¶ 0019-0023].

As per claim 13, this is a method clam with similar limitations as claim 1 above. It is rejected for the same reasons as explained in claim 1 above.

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As per claim 14, Knox teaches The SRS of claim 13 wherein the electronic mail service is selected from a group consisting of an Internet E-Mail mail service, an Internet voice mail service, and a telephone-based voice mail service, and wherein the internal mail device formats the received status information into a piece of electronic mail compatible with the selected electronic mail service [page 2, ¶ 0021-0026].

As per claim 16, Knox teaches the method of claim 13 comprising ascertaining a plurality of interested parties from an ID identifying the plurality of interested parties and tagged to the received status information and locating an electronic mail address for each interested party based on the ID tagged to the received status information [page 2, ¶ 0019-0026].

As per claim 17, Knox teaches the method of claim 13 further comprising referring to status data in conjunction with determining whether the status system has new status information stored therein [page 2, ¶ 0019-0023].

As per claim 18, Knox teaches the method of claim 17 wherein the status data includes previous status information obtained from the status system for the project, the method comprising comparing the previous status information for the project and the status information for the project as stored in the status system

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and noting differences that identify the new status information [page 2, ¶ 0017-0025].

As per claim 18, Knox teaches the method of claim 18 comprising updating the status data with the new status information [page 2, ¶ 0019-0023].

As per claim 19, Knox teaches the method of claim 17 wherein each piece of status information stored in the status system is tagged with a time stamp, and wherein the status data includes a time indicative of a last contact review of the status system, the method comprising obtaining from the status system only those pieces of status information stored therein that have a time stamp later than the time of the last review as stored in the status data [page 2, ¶ 0017-0020 and ¶ 0025-0028].

As per claim 21, Knox teaches the method of claim 20 comprising updating the status data with a time indicative of the present review [page 2, ¶ 0017-0020 and ¶ 0025-0028].

As per claim 22, Knox teaches the method of claim 13 comprising contacting the status system 10 and obtaining the new status information therefrom automatically on a periodic basis [page 2, ¶ 0017-0023].

As per claim 23, Knox teaches the method of claim 13 comprising automatically reporting updated status of a plurality of projects

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to corresponding interested party based on status information stored in the status system [page 2, ¶ 0019-0023].

As per claim 24, Knox teaches the method of claim 13 further comprising storing the obtained new status information in a memory [page 2, ¶ 0019-0023].

Conclusion

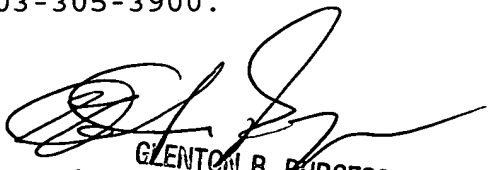
1. The prior made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yasin Bargadle whose telephone number is 703-305-5971. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Glenn Burgess can be reached on 703-305-9717. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9306 for regular communications and 703-746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Yasin Bargadle


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